

CLAIMS

1. A method of deactivating an allergen, the method comprising dispersing into an airspace an allergen-deactivating amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), the deactivant being provided in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion comprising at least 8% of a deactivant (wt. deactivant/wt. emulsion), and being dispersed into the airspace as a vapour.
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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over an extended period.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the dispersal is aided by heat applied to the emulsion.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is selected from:
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a terpene hydrocarbon;
a citrus oil;
a mint oil;
bois de rose oil;
25 oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot;
oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.
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5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

5 7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

10 8. The use of an oil-in-water emulsion in deactivating an allergen at a locus, the emulsion comprising an allergen deactivant present in a concentration of 10-15% wt./wt. of emulsion, a heat source being used to accelerate the vaporization of the deactivant.

15 9. An allergen-deactivating oil-in-water emulsion comprising at least 8% of a volatile deactivant (wt. deactivant/wt. emulsion), wherein the deactivant is selected from:

20 a terpene hydrocarbon;
a citrus oil;
a mint oil;
bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
25 oil of bergamot;
oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.

30 10. A method substantially as hereinbefore described with particular reference to the accompanying examples.